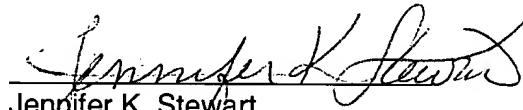


REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed 21 September 2005, the examiner allowed claims 7 – 27, rejected claim 1, and objected to claims 2 – 6 for being dependent on a rejected base claim. As shown in the enclosed "Amendments to the Claims," the applicant amends independent claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 2 and cancels claim 2. Because independent claim 1 now includes the subject matter of allowable claim 2, the applicant submits that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3 – 6 stand in condition for allowance. As such, the applicant requests that the examiner reconsider the rejection and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1 and 3 – 27. Should any issues remain, the applicant requests that the examiner call the undersigned so that such issues may be resolved expeditiously.

Respectfully submitted,

COATS & BENNETT, P.L.L.C.


Jennifer K. Stewart
Registration No.: 53,639

Dated: 19 December 2005.

P.O. Box 5
Raleigh, NC 27602
Telephone: (919) 854-1844
Facsimile: (919) 854-2084